

CLAIMS

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing the information for discriminating contents and the time information for the time the contents have been duplicated;

acquisition means for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated; and

duplication means for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition means and the time information held in said storage means.

2. An information processing method comprising:

a storage step for storing the information for discriminating contents and the time information for the time the contents have been duplicated;

an acquisition step for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated; and

a duplication step for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition step and the time information held in said storage step.

3. A program storage medium having stored therein a computer-readable program, said program comprising:

a storage step for storing the information for discriminating contents and the time information for the time the contents have been duplicated;

an acquisition step for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated; and

a duplication step for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition step and the time information held in said storage step.

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4. (added) The information processing method according to claim 2

wherein

said contents are reproduced from an information storage medium.

5. (added) The information processing method according to claim 4

wherein

said information recording medium is a compact disc memorizing the music information.

6. (added) The information processing method according to claim 2

wherein

the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code).

7. (added) The information processing method according to claim 2

wherein

the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the TOC (Table of Contents).

8. (added) The information processing method according to claim 2

wherein

the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code) as the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is read out at said storage step from the information recording medium and, if the ISRC is not stored in said information recording medium, data of the TOC (Table of Contents) is utilized as said

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discriminating information.

9. (added) The information processing method according to claim 2

wherein

the discriminating information and said temporal information are memorized in association with each other in a terminal database at said storage step.

10. (added) The information processing method according to claim 9 further comprising:

a step of checking data in said terminal database; said checking step detecting possible modification using a hash function.

11. (added) The information processing method according to claim 2

wherein said duplicating step further includes a decision step of comparing the current temporal information to the temporal information of the memorized contents when the discriminating information of said contents acquired at said acquisition step is detected to have been memorized in the past in said storage step to verify whether or not a time period not less than a pre-set time has elapsed.

12. (added) The information processing method according to claim 11

wherein

if, as a result of decision at said decision step, said pre-set time has not elapsed, duplication is prohibited.

13. (added) The information processing method according to claim 11

wherein

if, as a result of decision at said decision step, said pre-set time has not elapsed, a watermark in said contents is detected and duplication processing is executed based on said watermark.

14. (added) An information processing method used in an information processing apparatus having a database in which a discriminating code for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and the temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents are stored in association with each other, said method comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring a discriminating code of contents about to be duplicated;

a decision step of determining whether or not said discriminating code acquired at said acquisition step has already been stored in said database;

a comparison step of comparing the current temporal information with the temporal data stored in said database in association with said current temporal information when said discriminating code is determined by said decision step to be already stored in said database; and

a decision step of verifying whether or not a time period not shorter than a pre-set time has elapsed since the temporal data stored in said comparison step until the current time;

wherein

if, as a result of said decision step, the time period not shorter than a pre-set time has not elapsed, the duplication of said contents is prohibited.